

United States District Court
STATE AND DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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JUN 02 2010

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

VANESSA KAY COBENAIS

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Case Number:

10-mj-216(mkk)

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about May 22, 2010, within the exterior boundaries of Red Lake Indian Reservation, in the State and District of Minnesota, defendant(s)
an Indian did assault Georgianna Jourdain, also an Indian resulting in serious bodily injury.

in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section(s) 113(a)(6), 1151, 1153(a).


I further state that I am a(n) Special Agent and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,

Date: June 1, 2010
The Honorable Mary Kay Klein
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Name & Title of Judicial Officer


Signature of Complainant
Robert Mertz
FBI

Bemidji, MN
City and State


Signature of Judicial Officer

SCANNED

JUN 02 2010

U.S. DISTRICT COURT ST. PAUL

10-MJ-216 (MKK)

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)
2 COUNTY OF BELTRAMI) ss. AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT L. MERTZ
3 _____)

4 1. Your affiant, Robert L. Mertz, being duly
5 sworn, does depose and state as follows:

6 2. I am a Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau
7 of Investigation (FBI). I have been a Special Agent of the
8 FBI since March of 2002. I am currently assigned to the
9 Bemidji, Minnesota Resident Agency (RA) of the FBI with the
10 primary responsibility of investigating violent crimes that
11 occur on the Red Lake Indian Reservation (the Reservation).
12 The information contained in this affidavit is based on my
13 knowledge and on the reporting and knowledge of other law
14 enforcement officers involved in this investigation.

15 3. On May 22, 2010, at approximately 11:32 a.m.,
16 Red Lake Police Department (RLPD) received a call regarding
17 an assault that occurred the previous night.

18 4. RLPD officers responded to the Georgianna
19 Jourdain residence. Jourdain advised the previous night,
20 she was sleeping at the Gary English residence. According to
21 Jourdain, Gary English is her boyfriend and was not at home
22 at the time. Jourdain was awakened by Vanessa Cobenais
23 standing in the bedroom doorway yelling at Jourdain.
24 Cobenais jumped on top of Jourdain and began to punch and
25 kick her. Cobenais also bit Jourdain on the inner thigh.
26 RLPD Officer was shown the bite mark and surrounding bruising
27 left on Jourdain thigh. Another individual with Cobenais
28 pulled her off of Jourdain and they left the residence.

1 Jourdain got up, locked the door and went back to bed.

2 5. A short time later, Jourdain heard pounding at
3 the door, followed by the sound of glass breaking. As
4 Jourdain sat up in bed, she saw Cobenais standing in the
5 doorway to the bedroom again, holding a 2x4 piece of wood.
6 Cobenais jumped on Jourdain again and began to hit her with
7 the 2x4 numerous times. Jourdain heard Cobenais yell to the
8 other individual that was with her, "get my gun", "this bitch
9 is going to get a bullet". After the beating, Cobenais got
10 up and both individuals left.

11 6. Jourdain called RLPD and got a ride from an
12 officer over to the Indian Health Services (IHS) for
13 treatment. Jourdain advised she sustained two fractured
14 hands and a fractured lower leg.

15 7. I know that the Gary English residence is
16 located within the exterior boundaries of the Red Lake Indian
17 Reservation.

18 8. I know that Vanessa Kay Cobenais and Georgianna
19 Rose Jourdain are both enrolled members of the Red Lake Band
20 of Chippewa Indians.

21 9. Based on the above information, I believe that
22 there is probable cause to conclude that on May 21, 2010,
23 within the exterior boundaries of the Red Lake Indian
24 Reservation, Minnesota, a location within the special
25 territorial jurisdiction of the United States, Vanessa Kay
26 Cobenais, an Indian, did unlawfully assault, Georgianna Rose
27 Jourdain, resulting in serious bodily injury, in violation of
28 Title 18, United States Code, Sections 113(a)(6), 1151 and

1 1153(a).

2 10. Further your affiant sayeth not.

3
4 

5 Robert L. Mertz
6 Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Minneapolis, Minnesota

7 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of June,
8 2010.

9
10 
11 U.S. Magistrate Judge